(i) Establish a computerised accounting system capable of providing existing government accounts and commercial accounts with breakdowns by main lines of business and by main services

(ii) Outsource non-core activities

(iii) Introduce concessioning for operating some uneconomic branch lines

(iv) Delineate social and commercial objectives and identify Public Service Obligation (PSO)

(v) Tariff rationalisation

(vi) Right-sizing of staff strength

(vii) Restructuring of production units

(viii) Re-engineering internal business processes and customer interface

(ix) Strengthening investment planning.

**Streamlining of Purchase System**

1146. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have now decided to streamline the purchase system of the Railways to curb the scope of corruption and role of tender mafia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the proposal, if any, is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) On Railways, a well-established & time-tested system of procurement is followed where detailed instructions regarding issue of tenders, settlement of tenders etc. exist. However, a number of system improvements in purchase system are being introduced in order to have enhanced level of transparency and to plug the possible loopholes in the Railway purchase system.

(b) and (c) Procurement calendar, tender notices, tender documents

for all Open Tenders in down-loadable format and details of high value contract finalized by Railways are being put on website of the concerned Railway.

Latest global system of e-procurement *i.e.* procurement of items using web based technology is being introduced on Railways. A pilot project for implementing e-procurement on Northern Railway has been sanctioned. On successful implementation of the pilot project of e-procurement on Northern Railway, the same will be extended to other Railways as well. Further, Material Management Information System (MMIS) incorporating on line exchange of information on material management recently introduced on Central Railway is proposed to be extended to all other Zonal Railways for effective material management.

**Gauge conversion between Mansi-Saharsa**

1147. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of on-going work on gauge-conversion between Mansi-Saharsa under the East Central Railway;

(b) the present status of funds allocated for the purpose and the amount spent thereon, so far; and

(c) the expected date for completion of the work and its opening of broad gauge line at the earliest possible time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The work of gauge conversion of Mansi-Saharsa is in progress. Earthwork in formation, widening and minor bridge works have been completed. Work on some of the major bridges is in progress.

(b) The anticipated cost of gauge conversion of Mansi-Saharsa section is about Rs. 210.51 crore. The expenditure incurred on the project upto 31.3.2004 is about Rs. 60.52 crore. An outlay of Rs. 20 crore has been proposed in the Budget 2004-05.

(c) The work is targeted for completion during 2004-05.